

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 BEIRUT 02119 141132Z

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10

L-03 NSAE-00 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 OMB-01 AID-05

SSM-03 ACDA-12 NSCE-00 SSO-00 ICAE-00 INRE-00

IO-13 /094 W

-----010518 141139Z /21

O R 141100Z APR 78

FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7618

INFO SIT-REP COLLECTIVE

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

USNMR SHAPE BELGIUM

CINCUSNAVEUR, LONDON ENG

CINCUSAFE RAMSTEIN AB GER

COMSIXTHFLT

CTF SIX ZERO

CTF SIX ONE

CTF SIX TWO

CTG SIX ZERO PT TWO

FICEURLANT NORFOLK VA

FOSIF ROTA SPAIN

DIA WASHDC

CINCUSAREUR HEIDELBERG GER

USDOCOSOUTH NAPLES IT

C O N F I D E N T I A L BEIRUT 2119

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS PINT MILI ASEC LE

SUBJ: LEBANESE SITUATION, APRIL 14, 1300 HOURS LOCAL

REF: BEIRUT 2107 (DTG 131525Z APR 78)

1. BEGIN SUMMARY: AN UNEASY CEASE-FIRE HAS GONE INTO EFFECT IN THE AYN AR-RUMMANEH AREA. THE BODIES OF FIVE SYRIAN SOLDIERS HAVE BEEN FOUND IN
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 BEIRUT 02119 141132Z

CHRISTIAN AREAS OF BEIRUT. PRIME MINISTER AL-HOSS APPEALED TO ALL CITIZENS TO COOPERATE WITH THE ARAB DETERRENT FORCES. THE CHRISTIANS HAVE REPORTEDLY RE-ENFORCED THEIR POSITIONS AROUND HAMAT AIRFIELD. END SUMMARY.

2. SITUATION IN AYN AR-RUMMANEH.

A. AN UNEASY CEASE-FIRE HAS BEEN IN EFFECT SINCE ABOUT 2200 HOURS APRIL 13 IN THE AYN AR-RUMMANEH AREA, FOLLOWING AN AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE ADF AND LEBANESE FRONT, WHEREBY SAUDI AND SUDANESE TROOPS WOULD BE STATIONED ALONG THE AYN AR-RUMMANEH SIDE OF THE CONFRONTATION LINE AND THE SYRIANS ALONG THE SHIAH SIDE. AS OF 1200 HOURS APRIL 14, ARRANGEMENT SEEMS TO BE WORKING. ACCORDING TO AN NLP SOURCE, GEORGE ADWAN'S TANZIM MORTARED THE MUNICIPAL STADIUM MORNING OF APRIL 13 IN AN ATTEMPT TO STOP THE CEASE-FIRE FROM GOING INTO EFFECT.

B. ACCORDING TO THE PRESS, 102 PEOPLE WERE KILLED AND 292 WOUNDED IN THE FIGHTING. ACCORDING TO THE LEBANESE FRONT, MOST CASUALTIES WERE CIVILIANS, AND MORE THAN 200 APARTMENTS WERE DESTROYED OR BADLY DAMAGED BY SYRIAN SHELLING.

C. ASKED IF THE CEASE-FIRE WOULD HOLD, LEBANESE FRONT CHAIRMAN CAMILLE CHAMOUN SAID: "WE HAVE TO WAIT 48 HOURS; IF ALL IS WELL THEN WE WILL GO ON TO DEAL WITH THE DEEP WOUNDS LEFT BY THE INCIDENT."

3. SYRIAN BODIES FOUND.
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 BEIRUT 02119 141132Z

ACCORDING TO RELIABLE SOURCES, TWO DEAD SYRIAN SOLDIERS WERE FOUND IN FURN ASH-SHUBAK THE AFTERNOON OF APRIL 13 AND THREE MORE IN CORNICHE NAHAR THE MORNING OF APRIL 14. THE CAUSE OF THEIR DEATHS IS UNKNOWN, BUT LOCAL OBSERVERS SPECULATE THAT THE DEAD SYRIANS WERE VICTIMS OF CHRISTIAN SNIPER FIRE.

4. ARAB DETERRENT FORCE.

A. PRIME MINISTER AL-HOSS ON APRIL 13 CALLED ON ALL CITIZENS TO COOPERATE WITH THE ARAB DETERRENT FORCE WHICH HE SAID "HAS THE SUPPORT OF THE LEGAL AUTHORITIES AND IS WORKING TOWARDS RE-ESTABLISHING SECURITY."

B. MEANWHILE, MOST PAPERS CARRIED REMARKS BY SYRIAN FOREIGN MINISTER KHADDAM TO SWISS TELEVISION THAT SYRIA WAS NOT DIRECTLY INVOLVED IN THE "LEBANESE SITUATION," BECAUSE THE ADF WAS COMMITTED TO PRESIDENT ELIAS SARKIS. KHADDAM REPORTEDLY ADDED THAT THERE WAS NO NEED FOR COORDINATION BETWEEN

UNIFIL AND SYRIA OVER SOUTH LEBANON, AND THAT ANY
COORDINATION SHOULD BE BETWEEN THE GOL AND UN.

5. CHRISTIAN WEAPONS.

PRO-SYRIAN LEBANESE BA'THI CLAIMED ON APRIL 12 THAT THE
CHRISTIANS HAD MOVED WEAPONS FROM SARBA BARRACKS TO
POSITIONS AROUND HAMAT AIRFIELD. SAME SOURCE ALSO ALLEGED
THE CHRISTIANS HAD PLANS FOR ATTACKING BEIRUT AIRPORT
BY FIRE IF THE AYN AR-RUMMANEH FIGHTING WERE NOT CONTAINED.
PARKER

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: INTELLIGENCE COLLECTION, POLITICAL SITUATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 14 apr 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978BEIRUT02119
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780160-0801
Format: TEL
From: BEIRUT
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780458/aaaabwyi.tel
Line Count: 126
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: c354a1b0-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 BEIRUT 2107
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 29 mar 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2971248
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: LEBANESE SITUATION, APRIL 14, 1300 HOURS LOCAL
TAGS: PINS, PINT, MILI, ASEC, LE
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/c354a1b0-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014